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## FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

**DATE:** December 28, 2005

**FILE NO:** ROC920030129US1 (IBMK30129)

**TO:** MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS  
Examiner Thanh Ha T. Dang

**FAX NO:** 1-571-273-8300

**COMPANY:** USPTO

**FROM:** Gero G. McClellan / Jon K. Stewart

**PAGE(S) with cover:** 24

**ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW?** ☐ YES ☒ NO

**RE:**

**TITLE:** ABSTRACT DATA LINKING AND JOINING INTERFACE

**U.S. SERIAL NO.:** 10/618,409

**FILING DATE:** July 11, 2003

**INVENTOR(S):** Richard D. Dettinger et al.

**EXAMINER:** Thanh Ha T. Dang

**GROUP ART UNIT:** 2163

**CONFIRMATION NO.:** 5540

Attached for the above-referenced application is an APPEAL BRIEF.

### CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE

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**Real Party in Interest**

The present application has been assigned to International Business Machines Corporation, Armonk, New York.

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### **Related Appeals and Interferences**

Applicant asserts that no other appeals or Interferences are known to the Applicant, the Applicant's legal representative, or assignee which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

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### **Status of Claims**

Claims 21-33 are pending in the application. Claims 1-33 were originally presented in the application. Claims 1-20 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 21-33 stand finally rejected as discussed below. The final rejections of claims 21-33 are appealed. The pending claims are shown in the attached Claims Appendix.

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### **Status of Amendments**

All claim amendments have been entered by the Examiner, including amendments to the claims proposed after the final rejection.

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### Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

Claimed embodiments provide a method, apparatus and article of manufacture that provide an interface allowing users to specify how to link or join query result fields as part of a query composition process. See *Application*, ¶¶ 39, 54, 71-94, Abstract. The interface may display a set of input cells for user-selected logical result fields. See *Application*, ¶¶ 82-83. Users select the location of a logical result fields to specify how to link or join sets of data retrieved for the query result fields. See *Application*, ¶¶ 83-87.

One claimed embodiment (see e.g., claims 21-24) provides a method for building queries. The method includes, providing a logical model to logically describe the physical fields, the logical model comprising logical fields corresponding to respective physical fields. See *Application*, ¶¶ 41-53 (physical view of database environment) and ¶¶ 54-70 (logical view of database environment). The method also includes providing a graphical user interface allowing user selection and arrangement of logical result fields selected from the logical model. See *Application*, ¶ 83, 84 Figure 14, 1400 (result field linking GUI and table 1404), Figures 15-16. Using the result field linking GUI, users specify a selection and a location, in the graphical user interface, of a first logical result field and a second logical field. See *Id.* The relative geometric relationship of the first and second logical result fields define at least a portion of an abstract query. See *application*, ¶ 84 ("The user determines the structure of the resulting query by selecting the relative position of the available result fields"). The method also includes transforming the abstract query into an executable query containing at least one combinatorial statement containing representations of the first and second logical result fields, and being generated as a result of the relative geometric relationship. See *Application*, ¶ 84, 89, Figures 3, 4, 16, 17.

Another claimed embodiment (see e.g., claims 25, 26), includes a computer readable medium containing a graphical user interface program configured to perform an operation for building abstract queries. The operation includes receiving user input specifying a selection and a location, in the graphical user interface, of a first logical